

Abstract of the Disclosure

[0043] A policy based network management (PBNM) system may identify one or more policies associated with a network component (e.g., a network device, a device group, a device subgroup, a user, an application, an end-host, etc.) by identifying one or more policies directly associated with the network component, generating a list of one or more groups to which the network component belongs, and identifying one or more policies associated with each of the groups in the generated list. An aggregated data set (e.g., a hash table or a balanced tree) may be used to store network component identity elements, one or more pointers to a deployed policy tree, and one or more pointers to a network configuration tree. Each identity element in the data set identifies a network component and has an associated network configuration tree pointer and one or more associated deployed policy tree pointers.

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